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Q18

Religious indoctrination via social media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous to the internal security of our country.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS III · 12 marks · Cyber Security and Money Laundering

Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

Core demand of the question

- Explain what ISIS is and what its mission is
- Show how it can endanger India's internal security, including through social-media indoctrination of youth

Revision summary

ISIS is a jihadist group that seized land in Iraq and Syria and declared a **caliphate** in 2014.

Its mission is a border-breaking Islamic State, harsh rule, and global recruitment and attacks.

India's risk is online radicalisation, small modules, lone wolves, communal polarisation, and returnees.

Social media replaced the old physical pipeline for many youth.

Counter it with intelligence, fair law, deradicalisation, and refusal to communalise the whole response.

Flow diagram

ISIS caliphate brand -> Mission state terror recruit

Social media -> Indian youth indoctrination

Indian youth indoctrination -> Travel cells lone wolf

Travel cells lone wolf -> Internal security hit

Intel law deradicalise -> Internal security hit

Conclusion

- Intelligence fusion on travel, money, and channels; fast legal process that still stands in court.
- Community policing and credible **deradicalisation**, especially for the young who were groomed online.
- Platform liability for terror content, with encryption policy that does not blind all investigation.
- Do not answer ISIS with collective blame on a community; that is the recruitment gift the group wants.

ISIS is a jihadist project that claimed a **caliphate** and a world mission of rule, terror, and recruitment. For India the danger is less an army crossing a border than **inspired youth, small cells, communal aftershocks, and returnees**. Social media is the conveyor. The reply is precise intelligence, law, and community work - not a war on a whole faith.

Facts & figures

ISIS / ISIL / Daesh

Jihadist organisation that held territory in Iraq and Syria and declared a caliphate in 2014 under Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Break with al-Qaeda

ISIS split from al-Qaeda's central line over leadership, brutality, and the immediate claim to a state.

Inspired attacks

Violence by people who never trained in Syria but copy ISIS media; this is the typical internal-security pattern in distant countries.

Caliphate

ISIS's claim to a supreme Islamic polity; even after territorial defeat the brand still recruits.

Soft targets

Crowded civilian sites that a small cell can hit without defeating the army or police in open battle.

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